

Torrance Herald

Co-Publishers
KING WILLIAMS - GLENN W. PFEIL
REID L. BUNDY - Managing Editor

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Newspaper Postmortem

No one likes to see the demise of any institution that has made itself a fixture in the home for years. That is why there is so much concern, perhaps, for the recent deaths of the Los Angeles Examiner and the Los Angeles Mirror. But it is interesting and at times, amusing to observe the reactions, particularly of the liberal politicians who in their subjective thinking always are ready to read something sinister into any publicized action of what they like to call the "capitalist" press.

The decision to suspend both The Examiner and The Mirror was based primarily on simple economics. No American is obligated to pursue a losing venture irrespective of the extent of his overall financial capacity.

The politicians, the fuzzy liberals, and some others place their own interpretation on the events of last week in the Los Angeles newspaper world. Those within the business can give you the real reasons and they are two: first of all, the very nature of the development of the Los Angeles area has decentralized the source of newspaper revenues and aided in the spectacular progress of the local community daily and weekly; secondly and importantly is the ever increasing costs of producing a newspaper in an area that has the lowest advertising rates in the United States and, perhaps, the entire world.

The lugubrious few who view the Los Angeles metropolitan newspaper situation with alarm might better appraise the overall situation in Los Angeles county and be astonished to learn that the county is served by at least 25 daily newspapers and 150 weekly and semi-weekly newspapers in regular publication and, for the most part, growing with their communities. No other county in the nation has so much newspaper service.

Those who are always fearful that their newspapers will carry only one side of a subject, can reasonably put their minds at ease at least in the consolidation of the Mirror with The Times and The Examiner with the Herald-Express. The combinations bring strength to both and the questionable bonus of a full spectrum of columnists some of whom, in our opinion, could easily swing it with Izvestia.

Decency at a High Level

If you don't mind an early-morning shock, permit us to nominate our favorite public servant. He is Mortimer M. Caplin, commissioner of internal revenue.

Mr. Caplin qualifies on the basis of drastic changes for the better which he has made while seeking the indulgence of citizens in filling out their income tax forms. Over the years, federal instructions have boiled down to harsh commands to do this, do that, and come up with every cent of what you owe.

Not so the gentlemanly document mailed out by Mr. Caplin! He addresses himself to the admirable task of softening the blow by quoting the late Oliver Wendell Holmes as follows: "Taxes are what we pay for civilized society."

If we may digress at this juncture, we should like to wish that Mr. Holmes might be around today. He could examine the going rates and determine that we have become civilized almost beyond recognition. All this, however, is not the fault of Mr. Caplin.

He goes on to state that Mr. Justice Holmes, who said he liked to pay taxes, "did not mention whether his enthusiasm included the filling out of forms."

The commissioner then counsels his constituents in wise and friendly manner with respect to how to tackle the job at hand.

We shall not go so far as to propose that this form-filling-out business be made a semi-annual event. It is merely our duty to report the discovery that even a tax collector can be human.

It is our prediction that Mr. Caplin will take rank among the great humanitarians, alongside the dentist who examines your teeth and concludes that no drilling is required. — Chicago Heights (Ill.) Star.

Morning Report:

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, a Nobel Prize-winner in chemistry and chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, has a point. He says that the more important science becomes to politics, the less we common people know about it.

We all realize that science is doing most of our work for us, keeping us alive when we are sick, and any day now may blow us all to bits. But the details are too complicated.

It seems to me an easier solution to the problem would be for the scientists to study politics and simple English, in addition to their chemistry and physics. Then we could understand them on our terms.

Abe Mellinkoff

STAR GAZER		By CLAY R. POLLAN	
ARIES MAY 21 1-23-47-61 69-70-80-94	Taurus MAY 21 2-17-24-36 38-44-52-58	GEMINI MAY 21 10-12-31-49 57-58-79-83	CANCER MAY 21 19-26-30-42 65-78-87-89
LION MAY 21 34-37-41-46 50-59-73	VIRGO AUG 24 15-23-48-52 60-77-81-88	SAGITTARIUS NOV 23 4-18-27-32 33-34-71	SCORPIO OCT 23 6-18-27-32 4-7-8-43
PISCES MAY 21 22-28-31-41 43-44-45-46 47-48-49-50 51-52-53-54 55-56-57-58 59-60-61-62 63-64-65-66 67-68-69-70 71-72-73-74 75-76-77-78 79-80-81-82 83-84-85-86 87-88-89-90 91-92-93-94 95-96-97-98 99-100-101-102	AQUARIUS FEB 19 20-29-40-45 64-67-74	CAPRICORN DEC 23 JAN 30 3-5-9-14 22-28-39	PISCES MAY 21 22-28-31-41 43-44-45-46 47-48-49-50 51-52-53-54 55-56-57-58 59-60-61-62 63-64-65-66 67-68-69-70 71-72-73-74 75-76-77-78 79-80-81-82 83-84-85-86 87-88-89-90 91-92-93-94 95-96-97-98 99-100-101-102

The Old Turkey-Pull Game



Out of the Past

From the Pages of the HERALD

40 Years Ago

The Torrance Holding Co., composed of 30 prominent Torrance residents, has given a lease to the Standard Oil Co. on 36 acres on Carson at the first turn on that avenue out of Torrance toward Redondo Beach. The holding company receives \$500 cash per acre on the lease plus one-sixth royalty on production.

Mr. and Mrs. Mowry invite all young married people of Torrance to a special evening at their home, 2112 Carson St., Friday, Jan. 12. The purpose of the "open house" is to organize a young peoples' Bible study class in the Methodist Sunday School.

The Torrance Chamber of Commerce will meet in the city hall Monday at 7:30 p.m. when railway passenger and water rates will be the subjects of discussion. All members and the general public are urged to come and take part in the deliberations.

The building business is now underway for 1922 and bids fair to be one of the best in the history of Torrance. One local contractor reports he has orders for several residences costing as much as several thousand apiece.

30 Years Ago

Obstructive lawsuits will delay work on the Metropolitan aqueduct from three to six months, Chairman W. P. Whitsett said late last week.

in commenting on the appeal to a higher court by parties opposed to the issuance of \$220,000,000 Metropolitan District bonds.

Ancient and decrepit automobiles are fast becoming a major problem on California highways. Many of these cars are still in use even though they are uninsurable.

The home of Mrs. Frank Buffington on Engracia Avenue was the setting for a party when she and Mrs. Harvel Guttenfelder as co-hostesses entertained the Rotary Anns Tuesday evening. Following a short business meeting, bridge was enjoyed.

A group of 20 American Legion Auxiliary members headed by Mrs. Pearl McVickers, hospitalization chairman, attended a party at Sawtelle last night.

20 Years Ago

With 781 native-born and 408 aliens, Torrance is tenth among U.S. cities in Japanese population. Los Angeles leads with 23,321.

Reconstruction of 40 major buildings in Torrance, following the destructive earthquake on Nov. 14, is making the city look even more confused than the day after the quake. Eventually, however, the city will present a far more modern aspect.

An explosion last night

at the Columbia Steel plant, a blast that aroused many local residents and alarmed quite a few, caused no damage, according to Supt. Otto Kresse, today. He said the blast was "nothing unusual" and denied there was any evidence of sabotage.

Declaring that "ordinary life" should be maintained whenever possible despite the war, a group of local residents headed by Fay L. Parks decided at a dinner meeting last night to go ahead with plans for the 1952 Torrance Flower Show.

Quote

He that hath an ill name is half handed.—John Heywood.

He born in a good hour who gets a good name — Thomas Fuller.

Men are the constant dupes of names, while their happiness and well-being mainly depends on things.—J. Fenimore Cooper.

Few men have grown unto greatness whose names are allied to ridicule. — M. F. Tupper.

A name never harms a man if the man does not harm the name. — Estonian Proverb.

Law in Action

Penny watchers: Note some recent changes in the tax laws. Last fall the state printed a new schedule for sales tax reimbursement for retailers.

The law since 1933 puts the sales tax on the retailer who in turn passes it on to the buyer. But whether he collects sales tax reimbursement from the buyers or not, the seller must pay a four per cent tax, the state and city on all taxable sales. Thus the man who sells 10-cent coffee all day and never collects sales tax reimbursement, still owes a tax to the state on his gross sales.

As a rule, the new tax schedule favors buyers more than the old schedules did. Under it, you pay one per cent sales tax reimbursement on a 13-cent purchase, and roughly add another one cent for each additional 25 cents. Each retailer posts the schedule in sight.

Under the law the retailer usually adds up all the taxable items bought at one time and charges the sales

A Bookman's Notebook

Three New Novels Probe Religion, Humor in War

William Hogan

Religion on the battlefield is an extremely difficult theme. Nevertheless, "The Ikon" (Coward - McCann; \$3.95), a first novel by Clayton Barbeau stays clear of excessive symbolism and presents a plausible story of a young man seeking faith as he hunts the Communist enemy in Korea.

What may be an excessive amount of bunker talk about the soul and afterlife is not totally unrealistic; even the dullard or the uneducated, about to face enemy guns, suddenly can find words to express his fear.

Barbeau's hero is a young rifleman with intelligence, with a background of European travel, an agnostic in love with a young librarian of firm Catholic belief. And so Warren volunteers for combat as a place where perhaps the values and meaning of life can be found.

The men with whom he lives in a front line bunker between patrols are recognizable types. There is a cool killer, a Polish refugee. There is the loud talker who turns coward before the first shot. There are two combat comrades who were wash-outs during their training for the priesthood.

And back at the replacement depot, from where Warren and his platoon members came, there is a mother's boy living in ease and free of danger. He writes letters home in which he invents stories of heroism and narrow brushes with death in combat — and the shock kills his mother.

Barbeau handles all the characters with considerable skill, and he does very well with his description of combat, obviously knowing of it first hand. His use of flashbacks does not jostle the reader.

As a "different" type of war novel, "The Ikon" is a fine first start.

"Meanwhile, Back at the Front" (Crown, \$3.95) and "To the Rear, March" (Doubleday; \$3.95) tackle another tricky theme — humor during wartime.

Since the success of "Don't Go Near the Water," old war correspondents and old military public information people have been writing collections of "funny incidents" about the press camps of World War II and the Korean conflict.

Gene Coon, now a professional television writer but a Marine Corps correspondent in Korea, contributes his "Meanwhile . . ." It is slapstick, so broad as to include a Marine-operated "house" on the back of a GI truck.

If present-day Marine generals fail to find this humorous, Coon may be booted out of the Corps.

"To the Rear, March" by Joseph Coogan is a military comedy with more literary

merit. Private Steven Leary is on duty in a converted Philadelphia hotel just seven blocks from home. His job is urinalysis but he manages to expose a Nazi plot to blow up the hotel, uncover a phony British officer, and end the war with overseas duty—in Hawaii.

Around the World With



DELAPLANE

"For three weeks in Europe—how much?"

This is the bargain-rate season. But don't make it three weeks, make it 17 days.

This is the season when airlines cut prices for a 17-day excursion fare. (Rates are the same on all airlines except a few. The trick on buying is to shop around and see what extras in service and countries they are taking on.)

For example, Pan American is offering several tours built on the 17-day excursion: London, Amsterdam, Brussels and Paris at \$771 from the West Coast — the furthest point. Less from points near New York.

London, Amsterdam, Zurich, Rome, and the French Riviera and Paris for \$889 from the West Coast.

They estimate hotel breakfast and sightseeing at \$7 a day. Lunches and dinners can only be estimated by the appetite. You should be able to eat for \$4 to \$6.

"... on our second trip to Paris this summer.

We'd like to get a small car and get into the small towns."

Last year, I rented a Renault (good car, not much gasoline and service garages everywhere in France) — and drove up to the Normandy coast. Along the Allied invasion route of the sixth of June.

Deauville is the big town with the big gambling casino (Very plush. Dinner jackets to get in.) But not much of a town to stay in, I thought.

There's a whole series of beach towns along here. The little ones are more fun. And you can drive into Deauville in the evenings.

Couple of good restaurants in this area: Chez Mahu at Villerville; Moulin du Vey at Clecly on the Orne river; Petite Auberge in Trouville.

This is apple country. Try the calvados—the Norman apple brandy. Or the cider. Or the local candy with calvados inside.

Good book to send for: List of events in Europe for next year. Free from European Travel Commission, 640 Fifth Ave., New York City.

"Do you ever take tours?"

Do I lead them? Or do I go on them? Both—sometimes. I took the Greyhound tour in Mexico, 18 days. Fun and cheap. I led one tour to Europe some years ago.

Some travel people want me to head one through South America next autumn. If you're interested, drop me a card.

"... what kind of license you need driving in Europe?"

Varies. But AAA can tell you and issue you (for \$2 and two passport photos) an International Driving Permit. Good anywhere but Great Britain and Ireland, where you have to take out a special license.

"Best places in Europe to buy silver?"

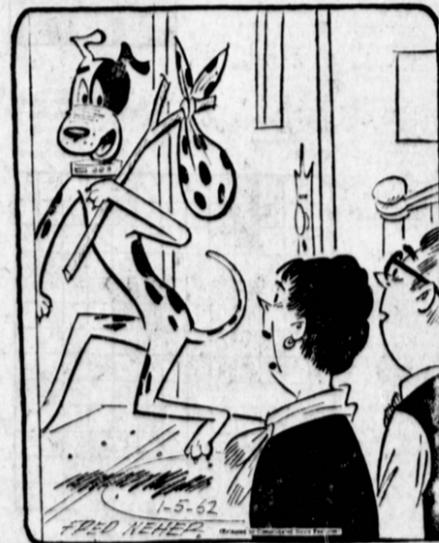
Copenhagen for modern Danish design. See TWA's booklet, "Travel Tips for Britain," for a listing of silver values in London. See TWA's "Travel Tips for Italy," for best silver shops in Rome. (I think Italy has the best buys. But the silver is not 920/1000. It is alloyed to 800/1000—if that makes any difference to you.)

Stan Delaplane finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the Torrance HERALD, Box RR, Torrance, Calif.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



"Back to mother . . . where do you think?"